**COVID-19 AND CORNFORTH PARISH COUNCIL: BRIEFING PAPER FOR MARCH 2020.**

1. In the absence of Parish Council Meetings and our twice weekly surgeries in Cornforth House during this emergency, I attach a Briefing Paper for Members’ information. The situation with regard to meetings and statutory duties is set out in the attached letter. The following paper deals with ongoing business.
2. The Memorial Park – Derbyshire Environmental, on behalf of Tarmac, has confirmed that the Parish Council can apply for grant to refurbish the Park. I will work on completing the application with a view to meeting the company’s next grant deadline in June, prior to a decision in September. Members have suggested a number of other targets for grant and I will follow them up.
3. Allotments – The water has been reconnected as requested by the Allotment Committee. However, the Government’s guidelines on social distancing and the National Allotment Association’s published advice seem to discourage normal usage. Having discussed the matter with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Chairman of the Allotment Committee, I have advised tenants that for this year the Parish Council will waive the payment of rents, in line with other Local Councils.
4. Cornforth Partnership – At the March meeting, Members approved £500 for VE Day celebrations to be organised by Cornforth Partnership. The event won’t be taking place in the current circumstances, but in the meantime the Partnership has become heavily involved in providing food parcel provision and distribution within the village (up to 100 households a week). The Chairman and Vice Chairman have discussed this matter and agreed that the VE Day monies can be used to cover this vital work.
5. The Partner – I have provided copy for the Partner, including details of the refurbishment of the park. The next issue will be digital, but with another going out in hard copy before the Village Show.
6. Planning applications - I will continue to monitor the applications received by the County Council and if necessary call on the views of Members of the Application Sub Committee by telephone.
7. Miscellaneous – Grass cutting has begun in earnest and I will pursue issues such as the provision of waste bins, where they can be arranged by email and post. Should Members have any pressing issues requiring attention please let me know.

Ray Sunman

Parish Clerk

March 2020